

CLAIMS

1. A measuring device comprising an elongate member; and a coupling in operative association with the elongate member, the coupling being adapted to hinge about an axis which lies substantially parallel to a transverse axis of the elongate member.
2. A measuring device according to claim 1 wherein the axis about which the coupling is hinged lies substantially contiguous with a free end of the elongate member.
3. A measuring device according to any preceding claim wherein the coupling comprises a first section and a second section, wherein the first section and the second section are disposed at a desired position relative to one another.
4. A measuring device according to claim 3 wherein the first section and the second section are disposed substantially perpendicular to one another.
5. A measuring device according to claim 3 or 4 wherein the coupling is moveable between a first state in which the first section is disposed substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the elongate member, to a second state in which the second section is disposed substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the elongate member.
6. A measuring device according to any preceding claim wherein the coupling is secured to the elongate member by means of an anchor.
7. A measuring device according to claim 6 comprising a pin arranged to secure the coupling to the anchor, the pin defining the axis about which the coupling is hinged.

8. A measuring device according to claim 7 in which one or other of the coupling or anchor has a pair of spaced apart collars, while the other of the coupling or anchor has a single collar shaped and dimensioned to be seated  
5 between the pair of spaced apart collars, wherein the pin passes through the three collars in order to secure the coupling to the anchor.
9. A measuring device according to any of claims 5 to 8 wherein the coupling is displaceable, in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the  
10 elongate member, a distance substantially equal to the thickness of the first section or the second section.
10. A measuring device according to any preceding claim wherein the elongate member comprises a tape having measuring indicia thereon.  
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11. A measuring device according to any of claims 6 to 9 further comprising a backing plate secured, through the elongate member, to the anchor.
12. A measuring device according to any of claims 3 to 11 wherein a  
20 transition from the first section to the second section has a radius of curvature whose centre corresponds to the axis about which the coupling is hinged.
13. A measuring device according to any preceding claim further comprising a  
25 housing into which the elongate member is retractable.